

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The naval base area in northern Lepaya was bounded by the Tosmare Canal and the sea on the south and southeast, and by the Baltic coast on the west. It was a restricted area and could be entered only by showing special identification papers. The area also included the naval shipyard. The local naval command staff was stationed at the base, as well as staffs for various naval units. A detailed identification and localization of these staffs could not be made, except for the submarine base. The commander of the submarine base was Captain 3rd Rank Ryazanov.
2. In January 1952, a floating dock sank in Tosmare. Later, four flag officers of vice admiral's rank, who, according to reports, belonged to the naval station in Lepaya, visited the scene of the accident.
3. A full report on the ships stationed at Lepaya was not possible. However, the observations below will cover the essential points.
 - a. Varying numbers of submarines were at the submarine piers in Tosmare, east of the staff building. The length of these piers corresponded to that of two submarines. If there were not enough berths, the submarines could also be moored at another place in the harbor. Lately, the largest number of submarines definitely known to be in Tosmare was observed in May of 1952, when 32 submarines were in port.
 - b. Of the submarines observed, several belonged to the types L, M, S, and SHCH. [redacted] it is known that the same submarines visit Ventpils. In August 1952, submarines [redacted] were observed in the harbor. However, their types were not identified.
 - c. Rumors of a submarine base at Lake Pape are without foundation. There were no connections between Lepaya and Pape such as those which existed, for instance, with the naval base at Ventpils; moreover, the local population has not observed any naval installations.

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- d. There were submarine chasers of the types BO and MO in Tosmare and Lepaya's city canal. In January 1953, there were 12 BO's anchored in the city canal and a somewhat smaller number in Tosmare. At the same time there were about 40 MO's in Tosmare and 3 or 4 in the city canal.
- e. There were only a few destroyers in Lepaya. The STROGIY and STROINYI were regularly seen. In addition to these ships, there were four destroyers in port in October 1952 for the purpose of radar work at the naval shipyard. One of these last mentioned was an ex-German ship. In June of 1952, nine destroyers arrived from Leningrad. The ships came in under the Soviet naval flag but lacked both names and numbers. They were taken over by the navy in Lepaya.¹ Generally, the ships remained in the naval harbor for two months.
- f. The cruiser ORDZHONIKIDZE came into Lepaya on 1 April 1952 flying a red flag. After installation work, it left for a test cruise on 15 May 1952 and has not returned. Rumor had it in the naval harbor that the cruiser was to have a crew of 800 men. It was also reported that every turret of the main battery was to have its own fire-control radar. The cruiser KIROV has been in Lepaya on repeated occasions. The last time was in July 1952, when the ship was in for repairs at Tosmare.
- g. Another cruiser of the SVERDLOV class came into Lepaya in the autumn of 1952. It was equipped like the ORDZHONIKIDZE. The ship was under the Soviet naval flag, but had no visible name. It left for a test cruise after about a month and has not returned. The cruiser MAKSIM GORKIY, like the KIROV, visited Lepaya occasionally for repairs. This ship was in Tosmare in the spring of 1952 and came back again in late autumn. It was still there in January-February 1953. The cruiser ADMIRAL MAKAROV has had rebuilding work and repairs performed in Lepaya on different occasions. The last time was in 1950.
- h. The submarine tender SMOLNIY was in Lepaya for an extended period during the summer of 1952. The ship, which was reported to have a crew of about 1,800, was under the command of a captain 1st rank. The submarine tender POLYARNAYA ZVEZDA, which was not as modern in appearance as the SMOLNIY, has been recently repaired in Lepaya.
- i. The radio-controlled target ship CELS was permanently stationed in the naval harbor. The ship was controlled from the VYSTREL, a vessel of BO-size. The VYSTREL was also stationed in the naval harbor. The CELS was covered with 25-centimeter armor plate above the waterline as well as 50-centimeter below the waterline, and was used as a target for ships' guns. In a recent rebuilding job, the foredeck was reinforced with 50-mm armor plate and the afterdeck with 35-mm plate.
- j. In August of 1952 there were five or six landing craft, probably of the type MFP, in the outer harbor at Lepaya. They later left in a southwesterly direction.
- k. The submarine salvage ship KOMMUNA was stationed in the northern corner of the winter harbor in Lepaya.
- l. Since the summer of 1952, a small gunboat has been tied up at the north quay of the city canal, next to the Bridge of Commerce. According to reports, it was to be turned over to DOSAAF. The tanker GROZNIY, which was berthed to the west of the above-mentioned gunboat, departed in the autumn of 1952. In its place there were four relatively small tankers. They were anchored at the quay.
- m. In the southern part of the winter harbor there were two naval tugs equipped for diving operations. A minesweeper or guardboat [] was on patrol duty at the center passage in the outer breakwaters. 25X1
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1. [] Comment. [] the change of flag involved 25X1
when a vessel formally joins the fleet.

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